



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

OCT 05 2018

James A. (Jac) Capp
Chief
Watershed Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1152 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Subject: Request for Additional Information Regarding Georgia Revisions to Water Quality Standards

Dear Mr. Capp:

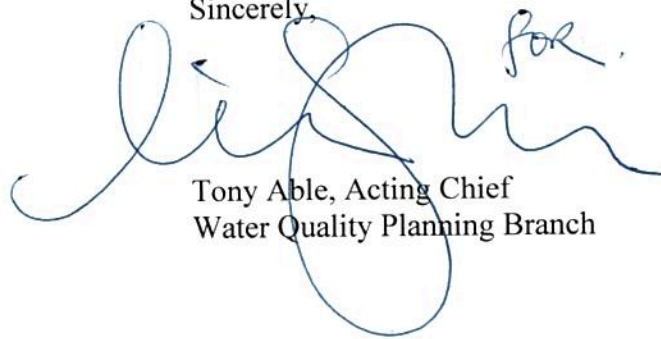
On August 14, 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received the narrative revisions to the State's water quality standards (WQS) prepared by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD). The revisions were in Rule 391-3-6-.03(5)(b) and (c). The final revisions were effective under State law on April 23, 2018, and certified by the State Attorney General on July 2, 2018.

My staff has begun its initial review of the WQS revisions to meet our obligations for review under Subpart C of 40 CFR 131 and to complete an Administrative Record for an Agency decision under the Clean Water Act Section 303(c) authorities. Georgia's "Statement of Rationale Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6" includes a brief summary of the proposed changes; however, the submission does not include the underlying background and supporting analyses for the changes. According to 40 CFR 131.6 and 131.21, EPA's review of a state revision to WQS must include the "methods used and analyses conducted to support water quality standards revisions" and "water quality criteria sufficient to protect the designated uses."

Where a state adopted a water quality criterion other than the EPA published recommendation, the state needs to submit documentation to support the new criterion and how it is protective of the designated use of the water body. In this instance, the State should address each of the parameters that have been revised with documentation on how the narrative will continue to protect the most stringent designated use. In addition, EPA is requesting that the State clarify GAEPD's understanding of the court cases submitted as justification. Please provide any other general information you think would assist us in making our final determination.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (404) 562-9273 or have your staff contact Mr. Jamal Cooper at (404) 562-9314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Able', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Tony Able, Acting Chief
Water Quality Planning Branch

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth Booth, GAEPD